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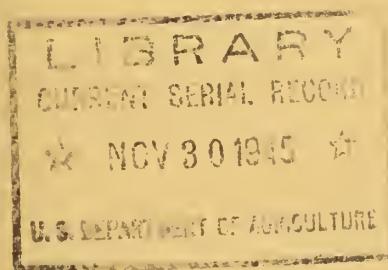
FOREIGN CROPS and MARKETS



IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
GRAINS AND GRAIN PRODUCTS	
Brazil's Corn Prospects Favorable	313
Rice Production in Egypt	316
Venezuela Imports Less Rice	318
Canadian Field Work Beginning	312
Australia Increases Wheat Price	312
Argentine Corn Harvest Conditions	312
Peru May Import Rice Again in 1944	312
Japan Plans Increased Rice Production ...	312
VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS	
Egypt's Cottonseed Production Reduced ...	317
Sudan Reports Decline in Oilseed Crops ..	317
COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS	
Brazil Controls Utilization of Jute	312
TOBACCO	
Increased Tobacco Production in Greece ..	318
Argentina Fixes Minimum Tobacco Prices ..	319
FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS	
1944 Cuban Grapefruit Prospects Good	320
Cuban Processing of Pineapples and Bananas	320
Mexican West Coast Vegetable Shipments ..	320
Spanish Pickled Green Olives	321
Spanish Almond Crops Increased	321
LIVESTOCK, MEATS, AND WOOL	
Danish Hog Numbers Continue Upward Trend	322
New Zealand and Australian Meat Rationing	323
GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS	
Weather and Crop Conditions Abroad	325

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LATE FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS . . .

CANADIAN FIELD WORK BEGINNING

The first seeding of wheat in the Prairie Provinces was made on April 1 in southern Alberta, according to reports. Field work is becoming active in that area but is not expected to be general until mid-April.

AUSTRALIA INCREASES GUARANTEED WHEAT PRICE

The support price for wheat of the 1944-45 crop has been announced. The new rate sets a higher advance on nonquota wheat (that part of the individual crop in excess of the first 3,000 bushels). Under the new schedule the advance will be 3s. (about 48 cents in United States currency) compared with the old rate of 2s. 1-1/3 d. (34 cents) for bagged wheat. The rate on the first 3,000 bushels remains unchanged at 4s. 1-1/3d. (67 cents). The increase is expected to stimulate wheat sowings for the 1944-45 crop.

ARGENTINE CORN HARVEST CONDITIONS

As the corn harvest continues, the yields are reported to be very satisfactory. No export offerings have been made, as the Government's selling price to exporters has not yet been announced.

PERU MAY IMPORT RICE AGAIN IN 1944

Peruvian rice production is expected to be 5 percent below annual requirements in 1944, based on the first crop estimate released from Lima. Production is forecast at 6,322,000 bushels compared with 6,213,000 bushels in 1943, and 5,218,000 bushels annually during the average 5-year period, 1937-1941. Should the crop to be harvested turn out as large as is now forecast, relatively small imports will be necessary to provide for consumption requirements estimated at 190 million pounds.

JAPAN PLANS INCREASED RICE PRODUCTION

An unprecedented Japanese rice crop of 370 million bushels is the production goal for 1944, according to unofficial reports. The largest crop produced previously was 644 million bushels in 1933, and average production for the 10 years, 1932-1941, was 533 million bushels. Increased efforts are evidently being made in an attempt to maintain rice production, as reports indicate that imports have been disappointing.

BRAZIL CONTROLS UTILIZATION OF JUTE

A Brazilian order, effective May 1, 1944, requires that 60 percent of the fibers consumed in the jute spinning and weaving industries of that country shall be domestic fibers, used in mixture with jute imported from India. Actually the amount of domestic fibers consumed during 1943 was equal to 64.29 percent of the total fiber consumption. The price of domestic fibers, controlled by this same order, is not allowed to exceed that of Indian jute of the same quality.

BRAZIL'S CORN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Forecasts of the harvest now in progress in central and south Brazil, where the bulk of the country's corn crop is produced, range as high as 195 million bushels, according to recent reports. This area grows about 90 percent of Brazil's total corn production, ordinarily. The current estimates for this region compare with a total of 198 million bushels for the entire country during the 10 years ended in 1934. Present prospects indicate that domestic needs can be met with some surplus, unofficially estimated to be around 4 million bushels. While the surplus might be considered as exportable, its actual availability will depend on an easing of transportation difficulties. Promising prospects for the current crop are in contrast with conditions last year when the outturn was reduced considerably, as the result of drought. Though an estimate of last year's crop is not available, reports indicated that the harvest was somewhat below average.

Production of corn in Brazil takes third place among the countries of the world, excluding China, being exceeded only by the United States and Argentina. (Production in China is not available for recent years, but it was larger than Brazil's outturn when last reported.) Corn is cultivated throughout the country and is the most widely grown crop in Brazil. During 1937-1941 over 10 million acres were planted to corn, while coffee, the next largest acreage, covered 7.7 million acres.

BRAZIL: Corn production by States, 1937-1942

STATE	YEAR OF HARVEST					
	1937		1938		1939	
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
Minas Geraes	62,380:	56,578:	58,062:	60,705:	62,897:	-
São Paulo	46,358:	55,079:	51,966:	23,663:	28,345:	66,138
Rio Grande do Sul	54,328:	39,914:	36,926:	38,145:	38,974:	36,926
Parana	12,293:	13,067:	13,310:	18,897:	20,786:	29,223
Rio de Janeiro	12,566:	12,094:	10,395:	9,767:	10,263:	-
Santa Catharina	6,311:	7,839:	9,174:	10,551:	12,127:	-
Goyaz	8,267:	8,267:	8,031:	5,690:	6,614:	-
Pernambuco	6,477:	7,275:	7,282:	6,302:	6,366:	6,591
Espirito Santo	6,614:	6,614:	6,376:	2,473:	2,834:	-
Sergipe	3,307:	3,283:	3,260:	687	749:	726
Others	8,494:	9,019:	10,122:	9,915:	10,384:	-
Total	227,385:	218,879:	214,904:	186,796:	200,339:	-
	:	:	:	:	:	:

From official and unofficial sources.

^a Latest data received, except estimate of 53,147,000 bushels for São Paulo in 1943.

The area of heaviest concentration is in the central States of Minas Geraes and São Paulo and in the southernmost State of Rio Grande do Sul, these three States

accounting for roughly 70 percent of Brazil's total production. This crop is grown mostly in small plots and is very often interplanted with beans, and less frequently with coffee, cotton, or mandioca. At the time of the latest agricultural census (1920) corn was grown on 75 percent of the country's 658,153 farms. Even in the main corn areas, however, the acreage per farm was only from 12.2 to 20.2 acres.

In a country the size of Brazil there is naturally a great variation between the growing season in the north and in the more important central and southern districts. In the main corn region planting is generally carried on from September to November except in the two southernmost States (Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catherina) where, to avoid late frost, planting normally does not start until mid-October. Generally the crop takes from 4 to 5 months to mature, with harvests beginning in February and extending into June.

Harvesting operations are carried out largely by hand labor, as is shelling, though the use of machinery in the latter operation has increased in recent years. After harvesting has been completed, the corn is spread in the sun to dry, and the part intended for use on the farm is stored in especially constructed slat-walled storage rooms.

Storing corn for any length of time is a difficult problem, since regular fumigation is necessary to maintain merchantable quality. Storage for as long as 2 or 3 months requires fumigation to insure against damage from insects. Hold in the damp climate of the coastal areas also constitutes a hazard to the corn stored there, stressing the importance of proper drying of the grain for export. Reports from São Paulo indicate that considerable quantities of the 1943 crop were lost in that State through insect damage or spoilage before it could be shipped.

Corn is used primarily for feeding livestock, especially hogs. Brazil's hog numbers, estimated to average from 22 to 25 million, place the country among the leading three, considering the world, excluding China. The main hog-raising areas of the country are found in the three principal corn producing States. Amounts fed to livestock in the entire country are estimated at from 85 to 95 percent of the total production. In 1943 the Army was a large purchaser of corn, as considerable quantities were used for feeding horses.

The amount of corn used as food in Brazil is a small part of the total, being placed at from 5 to 15 percent of the crop. Considering the country as a whole, corn does not appear as an important food. In parts of the rural areas, however, it does form an important part of the diet, even though the total consumed is not significant. The largest consumption is reported in Minas Geraes, the northeastern States, and São Paulo.

Until recently corn was grown solely for domestic use, but in 1939 a campaign was carried on throughout the country, aimed at encouraging the production of corn for export. A large quantity of selected seed was distributed, the good export variety, Catete, being given preference. Of the flint corns this variety is considered the one best adapted to growth over the largest area of the country. An educational side of the program stressed improved cultural and handling methods. The stated aim of the

drive was the improvement of export grain through the bettering of quality and the proper grading and storage of supplies. Another goal was reduction of the cost of production, which has been a factor in limiting exports from Brazil.

Exports of corn have decreased steadily since 1933 and in 1941 and 1942 had become quite small. Shipping difficulties and the loss of the usual European markets were the main factors contributing to the decline. Under normal conditions over 95 percent of Brazil's corn exports went to European countries, especially to Belgium, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany. Selled corn makes up the bulk of the exports, though small quantities of corn meal and some cornstarch and corn oil are also shipped. Exports of corn during the past 5 years have been made largely through the ports of Santos, Recife, Maceio, and Fortaleza.

BRAZIL: Corn exports by countries of destination, 1939-May 1943

DESTINATION	1939	1940	1941	1942	JANUARY-MAY 1943
: 1,000 bushels: 1,000 bushels: 1,000 bushels: 1,000 bushels: 1,000 bushels					
Belgium	1,228	0	0	0	0
Great Britain :	797	1,069	0	0	0
Netherlands ..:	260	36	0	0	0
Germany	217	0	0	0	0
Switzerland ..:	58	0	44	213	0
Portugal	0	0	84	148	0
Japan	276	20	5	0	0
Bolivia	1	5	5	21	3
Others	3	1	2	a	1
Total	2,840	1,132	140	382	4
	:	:	:	:	:

From official sources. a Less than 500 bushels.

Both flint and dent varieties of corn are grown in Brazil, but the flint or hard type is preferred for export, since its keeping qualities are superior to the soft types. The principal varieties exported are Catete and Catetinho from Central Brazil, Assis Brasil from the south, and Amarelinho from the northern part of the country.

Corn production costs are high, putting the product at a disadvantage in competitive trade. The price of corn in São Paulo was the equivalent of about \$0.78 per bushel during the first half of 1943 and in Porto Alegre was \$1.00 during that period. Corn for export is now quoted at around \$1.04 per bushel. Trade sources have indicated that prices may be considerably lower this year as a result of the favorable crop and lack of adequate transportation facilities to get the grain to market centers.

Consumption of corn in industry is small in Brazil. The largest manufacturer of corn products, Refinacos de Milho Brasil, S. A., located in São Paulo, is a subsidiary of the Corn Products Refining Company of New York. Its products include cornstarch (Maizena) corn oil, and corn syrup.

RICE PRODUCTION REDUCED IN EGYPT

Egyptian rice production in 1943 was below normal despite an increase in the area planted, according to official figures from Cairo. The production of 31,040,000 bushels was only two-thirds of the record output of 45,553,000 bushels in the preceding year, and was below the average annual production of 38,930,000 bushels during the 5-year period, 1938-1942.

The land area utilized for rice production both in 1942 and 1943 was 50 percent greater than the average acreage of the previous 10 years. The large production of 1942, however, was not repeated in 1943, because the annual Nile flood came too late to cover all the rice area at the time in July and August when the water was needed most. At least 10 percent of the rice acreage was abandoned, and the remainder produced a low yield.

Rice acreage will be decreased in 1944, but if normal yields are harvested, the production will be larger than in 1943. Because of the poor crop last year, the amount of rice available for export during 1944 will be reduced materially. Egypt has been the principal country where rice could be obtained for Ceylon and countries of the Middle East and East Africa since the Japanese occupied Far Eastern rice-exporting countries. Prior to the war, rice imports into these countries averaged over 1.5 billion pounds annually, of which Ceylon imported about 1.2 billion pounds.

VENEZUELA IMPORTS LESS RICE

Venezuelan rice imports declined sharply in 1943, amounting to only 2 million pounds compared with an average of 36 million pounds imported annually during the 5-year period, 1938-1942. The Government has encouraged rice cultivation since 1942 by distributing rice seed at cost and buying stock in an agricultural company that planned to grow rice on irrigated land. Early last season a bumper crop was forecast, but the high yield expected was reduced because of insects that attacked the plants.

VENEZUELA: Rice production, imports, and apparent domestic utilization,
averages 1926-1935, annual 1938-1943

YEAR	PRODUCTION		: 1,000 bushels:	: 1,000 pounds:	: 1,000 pounds:	: 1,000 pounds:
	ROUGH	MILLED a/				
Average -	:	:	:	:	:	:
1926-1930	-	-	27,105	27,105	27,105	27,105
1931-1935	b/	56	24,963	24,963	24,963	26,601
Annual -	:	:	:	:	:	:
1938	b/	300	b/	8,775	29,177	37,952
1939	b/	300	b/	8,775	48,250	57,025
1940		264		7,722	30,955	38,677
1941		301		8,804	43,331	52,135
1942		754		22,055	25,265	47,320
1943	b/	900	b/	26,000	2,535	28,500

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

a/ Equivalent to 65 percent of rough rice. b/ Estimated.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS . . .

Fred J. Rossiter, in charge

EGYPT'S COTTONSEED PRODUCTION FURTHER REDUCED

The quantity of cottonseed obtained from the 1943 crop in Egypt has been estimated unofficially at 357,000 short tons as compared with 449,000 tons from the 1942 crop and 304,000 tons in 1941. Lack of fertilizers is reported as the chief cause of the decline in the 1943 production despite a slight increase in acreage. The reduction in 1942 was attributed mostly to the Government's wartime restriction of cotton acreage, which was adopted for the dual purpose of avoiding a burdensome surplus of cotton and diverting cotton land to the cultivation of food crops. The cotton acreage restriction has been renewed for the 1944 crop.

Exports of cottonseed from Egypt in recent pre-war years ranged from 360,000 to 410,000 short tons and those of cottonseed oil from 8,000 to 16,000 tons, annually. Exports of cottonseed oil were prohibited on November 25, 1941, in order to protect the supply for domestic consumers and provide for Allied armed forces in Egypt. Cottonseed exports have been banned since March 1942. More than 100,000 tons of cottonseed were imported from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in 1942-43 to supplement the inadequate domestic crop of that year, and import requirements for the current year are equally as high.

Cottonseed oil is the principal ingredient used in most cooking oils and soaps manufactured in Egypt. Pre-war consumption amounted to about 44,000 short tons, annually. Current annual requirements, including those of Allied military services in Egypt, are estimated by private sources at 100,000 tons. Civilian requirements for cottonseed oil are somewhat higher than in pre-war years because of the virtual non-existence of other edible oils normally imported at the rate of about 3,200 tons annually.

SUDAN REPORTS DECLINE IN OILSEED PRODUCTION

Cottonseed production from the 1943-44 cotton crop (harvested during December through March) in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan is not expected to exceed 100,000 short tons, as compared with 130,000 tons last year. During the past 2 years, nearly all the surplus above planting requirements has been exported to Egypt for crushing and conversion to cooking oils and soap. Production of peanuts and sesame in 1943 were somewhat less than in 1942, despite increases in acreage, as shown in the table below.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN: Acreage and production of cottonseed, peanuts, and sesame, 1942 and 1943

COMMODITY	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION	
	1942		1943	
	Acres	Acres	Short tons	Short tons
Cottonseed	335,100	315,700	130,500	100,300
Sesame	181,100	312,100	56,400	44,100
Peanuts	52,600	59,100	15,000	11,200

Compiled from a consular report.

OUTLOOK FOR INCREASED TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN GREECE

The 1944 production of tobacco in the Provinces of Greece, other than Thrace and Macedonia, is forecast at about 40 million pounds, or double the 1943 crop. The increase is attributed to larger acreage resulting from anticipated higher prices and some hopes by growers that hostilities will end by the time the tobacco is ready for market. Production in areas outside of Thrace and Macedonia averaged about 47 million pounds during pre-war years, according to reports received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Average production of tobacco for all of Greece prior to Bulgaria's occupation of Thrace and Macedonia totaled about 125 million pounds annually.

GREECE: Tobacco production by districts, average 1934-1938,
annual 1939-1943

PROVINCE OR DISTRICT	: AVERAGE : 1934-1938:	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
	: 1,000 :	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	: pounds :	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Macedonia <u>a/</u>	68,404	78,796	63,865	<u>b/</u>	<u>b/</u>	<u>b/</u>
Thrace <u>a/</u>	10,756	13,524	9,714	<u>b/</u>	<u>b/</u>	<u>b/</u>
Central Greece	19,301	17,037	16,957	-	-	-
Thessaly	14,179	6,899	6,914	-	-	-
Epirus	1,093	586	878	-	-	-
Peloponnesus	5,971	2,783	4,627	-	-	-
Islands	6,484	5,576	4,544	-	-	-
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	126,188	125,201	107,499	<u>c/</u> 26,455	<u>d/</u> 9,480	<u>d/</u> 19,841
	:	:	:	:	:	:

Official records and consular reports.

a/ Occupied by Bulgaria in 1941.

b/ Not available.

c/ Preliminary.

d/ Not available by Provinces or districts. Totals shown cover estimated production in Provinces not occupied by Bulgaria.

Since the occupation of Greece by German forces in 1941, production of tobacco, which for many years had been the country's most important export commodity, has suffered from low prices and the loss of important foreign markets. All surplus stocks of tobacco in Greece at the time of the occupation, and subsequent crops, with the exception of those in Thrace and Macedonia, have been under the control of German authorities. Through price-control measures and exchange arrangements, tobacco prices have been held down. In tobacco purchases the exchange value of the Greek drachma has been manipulated in favor of the German mark to such an extent that growers in German-occupied territory received only pre-war prices for their tobacco, while prices for other commodities were increased several times their pre-war level. This resulted in a drastic reduction of tobacco plantings. Average production on the

reduced acreages for the years 1941-1943 in areas other than Thrace and Macedonia totaled only about 18.8 million pounds annually, as compared with the pre-war average of 47 million pounds.

Pre-war production in Thrace and Macedonia averaged about 73 million pounds and included the highest quality Greek leaf. Bulgaria now receives the benefit of production in these Provinces. Definite information regarding the tobacco crops is not available, but there are indications that the reduction in output has not been as drastic as in the other Greek Provinces.

Exports of tobacco from Greece in pre-war years provided the country with exchange required to purchase commodities from abroad. Exports, chiefly to Germany and the United States, averaged about 97 million pounds during the 5 years 1934-1939. Greek growers anticipate that when the war ends, trade with former markets will be resumed and therefore have expanded 1944 plantings.

GREECE: Exports of leaf tobacco by countries of destination 1934-1940

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: pounds						
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
Germany	33,836:	48,969:	49,895:	41,133:	56,929:	42,937:	50,719
United States	17,394:	22,086:	14,447:	20,675:	21,931:	19,211:	20,271
United Kingdom	256:	1,340:	161:	452:	1,109:	454:	4,222
France	183:	5,873:	1,038:	399:	470:	827:	3/
Italy	2,319:	3,144:	20:	3,265:	3,100:	1,805:	3,221
Sweden	2,657:	4,378:	2,608:	1,620:	289:	3,651:	1,830
Belgium b/	2,511:	1,591:	1,343:	2,650:	2,198:	2,877:	941
Soviet Union	6,720:	5,306:	4,581:	2,381:	405:	152:	a/
Netherlands	2,068:	1,975:	1,217:	2,119:	2,075:	2,795:	a/
Egypt	3,325:	2,426:	1,942:	2,524:	3,005:	1,675:	a/
Other countries	11,190:	14,101:	10,831:	15,801:	16,280:	11,549:	16,380
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
Total	82,459:	111,178:	88,083:	93,019:	107,792:	88,213:	97,584
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :

Compiled from official sources.

a/ If any, included with "other countries." b/ Includes Luxembourg.

ARGENTINA ESTABLISHES MINIMUM TOBACCO PRICES

In order to encourage the production of native types of tobacco in the Corrientes and Missiones districts, improve the quality of the leaf, and raise living standards of growers, the Argentine Government recently established minimum prices for 1943-44 crop leaf in the two districts. The prices range from about 4.4 cents to 9.5 cents per pound, depending upon type and quality. The Argentine Department of Agriculture will issue regulations controlling the sale of types for which minimum prices have been established and, when necessary to insure fair prices, will intervene in the marketing of these and other types.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS . . .

Fred A. Motz, in charge

1944 CUBAN GRAPEFRUIT PROSPECTS GOOD

Prospects for this year's grapefruit crop on the Isle of Pines are reported to be good. Last year the bloom was light, resulting in a short crop. The early bloom, which produces fruit for August and September shipments, has been quite heavy. Based upon present (March) prospects a crop of 110,000 to 115,000 boxes of export quality is expected for August-September marketing. Shipments, as heretofore, are expected to be made to the United States and Canada.

CUBAN FIRM TO PROCESS PINEAPPLES AND BANANAS

The tropical Products Company in Cuba proposes to process 3,000 tons of fresh pineapples and 10,000 to 20,000 tons of ripe bananas into dried products with the addition of ground coconut and sugar to be used by bakeries in the United States. No commercial quantities of dried pineapples and bananas have been produced as yet. These products apparently will contain nearly 50 percent sugar, a factor which may encourage their use by bakeries during the present sugar shortage.

MEXICAN WEST COAST VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS REDUCED

Carlot shipments of Mexican West Coast vegetables through the United States-Mexican border fort of Nogales, Mexico, from the beginning of the current season up to March 15, 1944, were as follows, corresponding figures for the 1942-43 season being shown in parentheses: Tomatoes, 2,641 (3,231); green peas, 606 (684); green peppers, 185 (157); and mixed vegetables, 34 (65); total, 3,486 (4,187). It will be noted that the total number of carloads shipped this season up to March 15 was 721 less than was shipped for the same period last season.

The latest estimate of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of Mexico shows the following acreages for 1943-44 winter vegetables in the Mexican West coast States.

MEXICAN WEST COAST: Area planted to winter vegetables, 1943-44 season

STATE	: TOMATOES :		: PEAS :		: PEPPERS :		: MIXED :		: TOTAL :	
	: Acres	:	: Acres	:	: Acres	:	: Acres	:	: Acres	:
Sonora	9,681	:	15,330	:	355	:	275	:	23,641	
Sinaloa	44,255	:	385	:	2,309	:	117	:	47,066	
Nayarit	125	:	0	:	12	:	0	:	137	
Total	54,061	:	15,715	:	2,676	:	392	:	70,844	

Compiled from consular report.

SPANISH PICKLED GREEN OLIVES

Approximately 44,000 hogsheads (7,040,000 gallons) of queen olives and 24,500 hogsheads (3,920,000 gallons) of manzanilla olives have been pickled this season in Spain, according to declarations submitted by green-olive picklers to the "Sindicato Provincial del Olivo, Sección de Comercio" of Seville. Of these quantities it is estimated that 42,000 hogsheads (6,720,000 gallons) of queen olives and 23,000 hogsheads (3,680,000 gallons) of manzanilla olives will be suitable for exportation to the United States.

Pimientos, used for stuffing olives, have been in short supply, but it is stated that 1,000 hectares (2,471 acres) have been planted in the Province of Seville. It is estimated that this acreage will produce 10,000,000 kilograms (22,046,000 pounds). This crop, which should be available in August 1944, together with the quantity on hand, is expected to be sufficient for stuffing the required proportion of pickled olives of the 1943-44 crop.

MALAGA, SPAIN, REPORTS EXCELLENT ALMOND PROSPECTS

With a continuation of favorable weather conditions during April, the Málaga district in Spain will have one of the largest almond crops in recent years. Reports indicate that trees blossomed about a month later than usual and that the bloom was unusually heavy. As a result they escaped damage by high winds, which frequently destroy a large proportion of the early blooms.

No quantitative estimate of the new crop is available as yet. The final estimate for 1943 placed that year's crop at 5,071 short tons, shelled basis, about equally divided between the Jordan and the Valencia varieties. During the 5-year period ending with 1942, the crop averaged 5,360 short tons annually. Normally the Málaga district accounts for about 22 percent of the total Spanish almond crop.

Harvesting of the crop usually takes place during September and October. While fairly substantial quantities of almonds were exported from the Málaga district during 1943, present indications are that fairly large quantities of old-crop nuts will be carried over into the new season. A considerable proportion of the carry-over represents nuts in grower's hands. Domestic consumption of almonds has declined considerably, due largely to high prices.

VALENCIA, SPAIN, ESTIMATE OF 1943 ALMOND CROP

Trade estimates place the 1943 almond crop in the Valencia district of Spain at 6,614 short tons, shelled basis. The quality is said to have been inferior to that of the 4,400 tons produced in 1942. The carry-over from preceding crops amounted to 4,960 short tons of shelled nuts. The large stocks resulted from difficulties experienced in obtaining export licenses. Export prices for shelled almonds from the Valencia district in recent months have ranged from 12 to 14 pesetas per kilo (26 to 33 cents per pound), depending upon quality. The domestic market has been rather slow due largely to the high prices of from 8 to 9 pesetas per kilo (26 to 37 cents per pound).

LIVESTOCK, MEATS, AND WOOL . . .

Arthur T. Thompson, in charge

DANISH HOG NUMBERS CONTINUE UPWARD TREND

Danish hog numbers in mid-February 1944 were estimated at 2,278,000 head, which is an increase of 42 percent above the comparable estimate for 1943 and 55 percent above the February estimate for 1942. The number of hogs in Denmark reached the wartime low point in June 1942, when it fell to 1,141,000 head, a reduction of 65 percent from the number reported in June 1940 shortly after the invasion of Denmark by the Germans. There has been a steady upward trend in hog numbers in Denmark since February 1943, the estimates for each month since then showing an increase above the same month a year earlier.

DENMARK: Periodical estimates of total hogs and of bred sows,
1939-1944

MONTH	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
: Thousands : Thousands : Thousands : Thousands : Thousands : Thousands						
Total hogs -						
January	2/	2/	1,968	2/	1,605	2,291
February	2,719	3,040	2/	1,468	1,721	2,276
March	2,724	3,066	1,873	1,267	1,375	-
April	2,706	2/	1,825	2/	2/	-
May	2,754	3,134	1,721	1,162	1,866	-
June	2,997	3,218	2/	1,141	1,940	-
July	3,133	2/	1,770	1,206	2,011	-
August	3,164	2,991	1,940	1,383	2,173	-
September	2/	2,741	2/	2/	2/	-
October	3,192	2/	2,013	1,593	2,396	-
November	3,230	2,528	1,925	1,669	2,449	-
December	3,134	2,189	1,691	2/	2/	-
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bred Sows -						
January	2/	2/	132	2/	124	149
February	254	258	2/	87	122	-
March	271	264	138	2/	131	-
April	225	2/	151	2/	2/	-
May	271	222	161	2/	143	-
June	245	195	2/	2/	160	-
July	245	2/	163	2/	154	-
August	257	167	143	2/	151	-
September	-	143	2/	2/	2/	-
October	251	2/	123	2/	160	-
November	239	130	96	2/	160	-
December	242	128	92	2/	2/	-
	:	:	:	:	:	:

Compiled from official sources.

2/ Not available.

The detailed breakdown of the mid-February census is not yet available but in January the number of sows bred was reported at 149,000, which was 20 percent above the number in the same month of 1943. The larger increase was in young bred sows, which were estimated at 52,000 head, or 24 percent above 1943. There was also a substantial increase in the number of sows with litters, which was 60,000, or 40 percent above a year earlier. The number of slaughter hogs of different weights on hand showed increases of from 41 to 53 percent above a year earlier, the greatest increase being in heavy hogs of 132 pounds or over.

A comparison with pre-war shows that the number of young sows bred in January 1944 were only 2 percent smaller than in January 1937. January estimates are not available for 1940, but available estimates for other early months of 1940 show that numbers at the time of the invasion (March 1940) did not differ greatly from the numbers reported in the same months of 1937, so that 1937 figures represent fairly accurately the numbers at the time of the invasion.

DENMARK: Number of hogs according to detailed classification,
January 1937, 1941, 1943, and 1944

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER				PERCENTAGE	
	1937	1941	1943	1944	OF 1943	OF 1937
	head	head	head	head	Percent	Percent
Boars	22	11	9	10	111	45
Sows-	:	:	:	:	:	:
Young bred	53	32	42	52	124	98
Other bred	188	100	82	97	118	52
Total bred	241	132	124	149	120	62
with litters	86	44	43	60	140	70
Barren	28	20	16	17	113	61
Condemned	19	14	8	13	163	68
Total	374	210	190	239	126	64
Slaughter hogs -	:	:	:	:	:	:
132 pounds and over ...	523	371	303	463	153	89
77 to 132	739	503	343	500	146	68
Under 77 pounds	874	523	426	602	141	69
Suckling pigs	691	350	334	477	143	69
Total hogs	3,223	1,968	1,605	2,291	143	71

Compiled from official sources.

NEW ZEALAND FOLLOWS AUSTRALIA IN RATIONING MEAT BUT SYSTEMS DIFFER

Meat rationing went into effect in New Zealand on March 3, following the introduction of rationing in Australia on January 17, 1944. The main reason for the introduction of rationing in these countries was that growing requirements could not be met unless rationing was adopted.

The system adopted in New Zealand appears to be similar to that used by the British and is based on price rather than on weight. Thus people with higher incomes will have no advantage over those with smaller incomes. The system permits each adult a basic ration of 1s. 9d. (28.5 cents United States) worth of rationed meat per week or roughly 2-1/2 pounds of meat. A half ration is provided for children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years.

The rationing is expected to result in a reduction of approximately one-third in the amount of meat normally consumed in the Dominion. The reason given for adopting rationing at this time is Great Britain's need for additional supplies and the increased quantities needed for the Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific areas. The meats rationed are beef, veal, mutton, lamb, and pork. Retail sales of pork, however, have been and still are banned owing to short supplies. Sausages, liver, tongue, poultry, rabbits, bacon, ham, and canned meats are unrationed.

Coupons have been issued in sheets. Six coupons cover meat supplies for a week. Five of these have a fixed value of 3d. (4.1 cents) worth of meat each, and the sixth a variable value which, during part of the year, will cover 6d. (8.1 cents) worth of meat and during the rest of the year when meats are higher will cover 9d. (12.2 cents) worth. Coupons must also be submitted for meals at hotels and restaurants.

Farmers will be permitted to kill their own livestock for household use and may share it with neighbors under a mutual sharing arrangement. Meat may not be sold by a farmer without a permit.

The Australian meat rationing system follows the group system adopted in Canada. Meat is divided into 5 groups, classification A to D being subject to rationing. The meat equivalent of the coupons varies for each classification according to the popularity of the cuts and their bone content.

Adults are allowed 4 noncumulative coupons every 15 days. One coupon will buy 3/4 of a pound of meat in the A group, which comprises popular cuts with little or no bone (such as steak); one pound of meat in the B group (loin chops, leg of lamb or mutton, rib of beef); 1-1/2 pounds of C group meat (chuck steak, shoulder of lamb) or two pounds of D group meat (boned brisket, shoulder, and forequarter of mutton). Children under 9 years of age are entitled to a half ration.

Edible offal generally is unrationed. So also are poultry, rabbits, bacon, ham, canned and cooked meat, frankfurters, potted meats, ham loaf, and similar items.

The probability of a shortage of meat to supply the domestic market as well as the needs of the United Kingdom and of the Allied armed forces in nearby Pacific areas was instrumental in bringing about rationing in Australia. The Commonwealth Food Controller estimated that without rationing, available supplies of meat for 1944 would furnish only 85 percent of requirements.

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS . . .

WEATHER AND CROP CONDITION ABROAD

The following summarizes available reports of weather and crop conditions in specified countries during February and March, 1944.

UNITED KINGDOM A considerable amount of rain occurred in some northern areas and in parts of Wales during February, but elsewhere it was rather a dry month. A scarcity of water was reported in eastern England. Cold winds and frosts prevailed toward the end of the month, and snow fell in some districts.

WESTERN EUROPE Changeable weather continued to prevail throughout March, and winter crop reports were mostly favorable. Winterkill was said to be well below normal. Soil conditions were satisfactory, and spring field work was progressing well.

GERMANY Reports received during the second week of February stated that river traffic had not yet been disturbed by iceflow and was continuing as usual.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL Ordinarily there is a fair amount of precipitation in Spain during the winter months, but this year the January-February period was the driest recorded since 1882, and winter crops were greatly impaired. In the Province of Catalonia there were heavy rains and snows accompanied by violent winds during the last of February and the beginning of March. While the rainfall was most welcome to the farmers in general, serious damage was done to crops in the low-lying regions, which were inundated by floods. Rains fell in Portugal during the last week of February, but some States reported that they were insufficient to relieve the long drought. Indications are that crop losses will be considerable because of drought.

THE BALKANS Some thawing was reported during the first 2 weeks of March. Autumn-sown crops wintered well and were in a satisfactory condition at the end of March. After 2 weeks of heavy snowfall and rain, the weather in Bulgaria became quite spring-like during the first week of March. Prior to the third week in February, the weather was generally favorable in Hungary, and in some places early sowing had begun. About 40 percent of the cultivated area had a continuous snow cover, while snow patches covered the rest of the region. No important frost damage was reported. Cold weather interfered with garden work, which had begun in some places. Heavy snowstorms are said to have occurred in regions west and south of the Danube.

SOVIET UNION A decree by the Council of Peoples Commissars stated that measures to preserve soil moisture must be maintained. Special water-conservation measures are proposed for the farms of the Saratov, Kuibyshev, Stalingrad, and Shkalov districts. The Don and Lower Volga rivers are now reported open to navigation.

MOROCCO The January-February period is usually considered the rainy season in Morocco, but up until the last week of February rainfall was reported as much below normal. Snows in the mountains were said to be the lightest in many years. Along the Atlantic coast, fogs and humidity enabled crops to develop more or less normally, but in the

*Prepared by Caroline G. Gries.

interior, especially around Fez, crops were seriously damaged by drought. Livestock suffered from lack of water, and wheat and barley crops are expected to be below average. The dry condition was relieved during the last days of February by rains that fell generally throughout the country. The rains were accompanied by wind and in many places by hail.

BELGIAN CONGO Reports received around the middle of March indicated that the native-grown coffee crop was greatly reduced due to drought conditions. Plantation-grown coffee, however, may reach the customary level if weather conditions prior to harvesttime are favorable.

SOUTH AFRICA Widespread floods caused by torrential rains in the Transvaal the latter part of January did some damage to the new corn crop, but by the end of the first week of February the weather was generally fine.

CANADA Decidedly cold weather was the rule throughout the Prairie Provinces during the first week of March. Temperatures well below zero were frequent. Snow fell in almost all areas. In the Winnipeg district the snowfall amounted to about 15 inches, which was equivalent to the total snowfall during the entire winter period prior to the first week of March. While not so heavy in Saskatchewan, the snow is reported to have extended well into that area. Precipitation from September 1 to February 28 for 13 stations show 3.57 inches as against a normal of 4.92 inches. By the middle of March, temperatures had moderated generally across western Canada.

MEXICO During February, weather conditions throughout the country showed great variation. Southern Mexico experienced warm weather with practically no rainfall. This condition favored the growing of henequen and sugarcane but was detrimental to crude chicle. Central Mexico, including Jalisco, San Luis Potosi, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, and Durango, reported cool and cloudy days. Generally speaking, there is very little agricultural activity in that part of Mexico at this season of the year. The only major crop in the ground is wheat, which was reported doing well. Northern Mexico, according to reports, had one of the coolest winters in years. A possible exception to this might be in parts of Coahuila, around Torreon, which has had some unseasonably warm weather. Rainfall in the northern States has been sufficient to maintain pastures and water holes, and no cattle losses due to starvation and thirst have been reported. At the same time the cool weather has enabled cotton farmers to commence planting a little earlier than usual, although there is still the possibility of killing frosts.

ARGENTINA Heavy rains and strong winds were general throughout all of Argentina during the first week of March when from 3 to 5 inches of rain fell **AND BRAZIL** within 24 hours. The rain greatly benefitted the pastures, especially in certain regions of the south where it was much needed. Harvesting of the corn and sunflower crops, which had begun the latter part of February, were somewhat hampered by storms in early March, but the average yield was expected to be somewhat above normal. At the close of March, field work was being continued under favorable weather conditions. During February, rains fell over the entire cotton-growing regions of São Paulo and Paraná, Brazil. The cotton crop has completely recovered from the mild drought of December and January.